

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293847

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING GENEVA 9380 SENT ACTION SECSTATE NOV. 24; REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9380

LIMDIS

IO FOR ASST. SEC. LEWIS, TOUSSAINT AND PALMER; PASS LABOR
FOR SEC. USURY, SEGALL AND HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJ: NUCLEAR THREAT BY G-77 SPOKESMAN AT ILO GOVERNING
BODY SESSION

REF: GENEVA 9317

1. SUMMARY: TEXT OF REMARKS IN PARA 2 BELOW BY AMBASSADOR
DE ALWIS OF SRI LANKA (REPORTED PARA 3 REFTTEL) WAS TAKEN
FROM UNOFFICIAL TEXT TRANSCRIBED FROM TAPE BY ILO SECRET-
ARIAT; ONLY REDUNDANT PHRASES HAVE BEEN DELETED. TEXT IS
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NOT AVAILABLE TO ILO MEMBERS AND WAS SHOWN TO US IN CON-

FIDENCE. IF USED OUTSIDE US GOVERNMENT IT SHOULD BE DESCRIBED AS STENOGRAPHIC RECORD TAKEN BY MEMBER OF USDEL. DE ALWIS, WHO SAID HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF SRI LANKA AND THE GROUP OF 77 HARANGUED THE GB FOR 35 MINUTES. HIS MAJOR POINTS WERE (1) THAT THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER WERE "CLOSELY ENMESHED AND THAT THE TWO MUST BE IMPLEMENTED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND CONCURRENTLY;" (2) THAT THE WEC MUST BE TRANSLATED INTO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE FEBRUARY/MARCH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND (3) THAT THE G-77 REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA WILL HELP THE SECRETARIAT IN ORDERING PRIORITIES OF THESE PROPOSALS. SEE PARAS 3 AND 4 BELOW FOR MISSION COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF AMB. DE ALWIS' STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT

MR. CHAIRMAN,

WE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE COME TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE TO NEGOTIATE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN CONFRONTATION, BUT WE HAVE A NEW FOUND STRENGTH. I SAY THIS BECAUSE-- AND I WANT TO REMIND MY COLLEAGUES--DESPITE ALL THE EFFORTS TO STOP ALL THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, LARGE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ALSO HAVING THE CAPACITY TO HAVE ACCESS AND TO PRODUCE THESE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. FURTHERMORE, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TODAY HAVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES, AS HAS BEEN AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY OPEC, WHICH CAN BRING TOTAL ECONOMIC DISASTER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE REPORTED THE INCREASING EFFORTS OF THE G-77 TO MAKE ITS PRESENCE FELT IN ILO SINCE THE MAY SESSION OF THE ILO, PARTICULARLY AT THE WEC AND THE MARI-TIME CONFERENCE. IF WE AND THE IMEC GROUP PERMIT THE G-77 CHALLENGE TO GO UNANSWERED WE CAN EXPECT THEIR DEMANDS
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TO BECOME MORE STRIDENT AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE IMED GROUP IN ILO TO BE WEAKENED. WE DO NOT TAKE DE ALWIS' NUCLEAR THREAT SERIOUSLY, BUT IT IS CLEARLY A GAFFE, AND A VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL AND OF COMMON SENSE. HOWEVER, NO MEMBER OF G-77--EVEN THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT MEMBER--ATTEMPTED TO MODIFY OR DENY DE ALWIS' THREAT. SINCE OUR BASIC RESPONSE TO THE G-77 IN ILO HAS BEEN AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE

THE LUNATIC FRINGE LEADERSHIP (CUBA, ALGERIA, MEXICO AND SRI LANKA) FROM THE MODERATES, WE SEE ADVANTAGE IN ROASTING DE ALWIS FOR HIS GAFFE. WE DO NOT SEEK HIS RECALL BUT SHOULD THAT HAPPEN IT MIGHT STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE MODERATE MEMBERS AND HAVE A SOBERING INFLUENCE ON THE G-77.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO (A) ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA INSTRUCTED DE ALWIS TO MAKE THE STATEMENT IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND (B) ASK THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WHETHER IT ENDORSES THE DE ALWIS STATEMENT. WE ASSUME THAT WE MAY CONTINUE TO MAKE APPROPRIATE LOW KEY REFERENCE TO DE ALWIS' STATEMENT IN ILO CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE G-77. CATTO UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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